1985, has made the following recommendations:

1. Constitution of a Technical Committee for undertaking malariogenic stratification of the problem areas in the country.

2. Augmentation of facilities for training in malariology and allied fields at Centre and State level.

3. Working out a plan of action to enlist active community participation towards anti-malaria programme and health education.

4. Opening of divisions of (i) Planning and epidemiological assessment and (ii) Operational research and development at Centre and State level. Joint Planning and monitoring of operational research by NMEP and ICMR.

5. Effective inter and intra-sectoral coordination for execution of environmental intervention measures to control malaria.

6. Continuation of P. falciparum Containment Programme with SIDA assistance for the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Taking into consideration, the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have:—

(i) constituted a Committee to undertake the malariogenic stratification of problem areas in the country. The findings are awaited;

(ii) constituted an expert Committee to draw up a plan of action for active community participation and health education to check the growing public indifference towards malaria control programmes;

(iii) approached the various Ministries/departments concerned for creating an in-built infrastructure in development projects like coal-mines, steel, Oil projects, irrigation projects, water supply projects, urban housing projects etc. for undertaking malaria control measures;

(iv) undertaken a review of the position for augmentation of facilities for training in malariology and allied fields within the available time schedule and resources; and

(v) Constituted a Committee of National and International experts to suggest new schemes/areas for operational field research. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Eradication of Guinea worm disease

*335. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of the victims of guinea worm disease in various States, annually; and

(b) what effective steps have been taken by the Central Government to eradicate the said disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The number of people suffering from Guinea-worm disease during 1985 are as under:—

States	Number of Patients 1985
1. Andhra Pradesh	2389
2. Gujarat	321
3. Karnataka	4035
4. Madhya Pradesh	8470
5. Maharashtra	4257
6. Rajasthan	11644

(b) The following measures/steps have been taken under the Guinea-worm Eradication Programme—

1. *Active case search* operation twice a year in the endemic States to find out Guinea worm cases and monitoring impact of control measures.

2. *Provision of Safe drinking water supplies* to the Guinea worm affected villages/hamlets.

3. *Health education* is imparted through the different media by the State Health authorities. Posters and pamphlets are provided by the Central Government.

4. Chemical treatment of transmission sites with temephos.

5. Training is imparted to district health and engineering officials in the control/eradication of Guniea worm at National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

Probe into Appointment of G.S.A. by Air India in London

*336. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated the 14th November, 1986 captioned "Probe urged into firm's appointment by Air India in London"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main points mentioned in the article are: (i) the capital of the firm appointed as GSA (ii) violation of rules, assurances and affidavits (iii) no bank guarantee have been taken, (iv) letter written by 30 authorised travel agents of Air India threatening to stop sales of Air India tickets, etc.

Air India had made alternate arrangements for seling tickets through IATA agents, after the expiry of the contract with the previous G S.A. This step, however, did not produce the desired results. With a view to augment revenues, increase the uplift of passengers and after discussions with the tops agents, a decision was taken by Air India to revert to the system of appointing a GSA.

In deciding to do so and for the selection of a suitable party, Air India followed its well laid down procedure, including discussions with the applicants. The agency finally selected, fulfilled the criteria and had also produced best results.

Rate of Road Accidents

*337. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study by the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre, rate of road accidents in India, which has already been one of the highest in the world, has increased by 9 per cent a year during the period from 1960 to 1983 and fatalities by 12 per cent and annual loss attributed thereto at present comes to about Rs. 350 crores;

(b) whether the study also reveals that the rate of accidents is likely to further increase by about four times in the next 15 years; and

(c) if so, what according to the study are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.